

STATINTL



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STATE GAZETTE

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COULD BE A REASON

There is no doubt that a lot of persons have been shaken on learning that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency has been "snooping" on civilians.

To what extent or how long the practice has been going on has not been determined, and those who investigate are not likely to reveal too much about their plans, or their probes would be of little value.

This, however, is known. The practice is not new. There have been several instances where knowledge of the snooping came out in trials and convictions of persons found guilty of violating Federal income tax laws and other Federal regulations.

That these steps may have resulted in less crime or violation of laws that not only cost citizens money in losses incurred by the criminal actions, but also in court trials, convictions and eventual punishment, but these facts do not seem to be used very broadly to balance against the investigations which led to convictions.

Those who are now howling about the snooping do not seem to be the least bit impressed by the results that have been obtained in past instances. They appear to be more concerned over the possibility that they may be snooped on than they are in the prevention of crime.

It is almost a certainty that very few little fish are likely to be the objective of investigations. No time possibly will be wasted on them. They are too unimportant and their transactions are certain to be too little to occupy the time and attention of those who draw sizeable salaries in their jobs, or profession, as investigators.

It also would seem more than likely there might have to be some suspicion pointing at those who get snooping attention. Otherwise it would be a waste of time. Perhaps that is the reason some are so upset about the investigations. They were not disturbed until they learned the practice was in effect.